

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claims 87-88, 90-91, 93-94, 96-97, 99-100, 102-103, 105-106, 108-109, 111-112, 114-115, 117-118, 120-121, 123-124, 126-127, 129-130, 132-133, 135-136, 138-139, 141-142, 144-145, 147-148, 150-151, 153-154, 156-157, 159-160, 162-163, 165-166, 168-169, 171-172, 174-175, 177-178, 180-181, 183-184, 186-187, 189-190, 192-193, 195-196, 198-199, 201-202, 204-205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 286-300, 302, 308, 311, 314, 316-318, and 320-326, and amend claims 89, 92, 95, 98, 101, 104, 107, 110, 113, 116, 119, 122, 125, 134, 137, 140, 146, 149, 158, 161, 164, 167, 170, 173, 182, 185, 188, 194, 197, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260-261, 263-264, 266-269, 277-278, 284-285, 301, 303, 306-307, 309-310, 313, 319 and 327 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claims 1-86. (previously canceled)

**COUNT 1 - (Product -Prepaints and Paint Composition)**

Claims 87-88. (Canceled)

Claim 89. (currently amended) A plurality of varied, but[[ compatible]]stable[[ premixed aqueous compositions]] fluid prepaints, sufficient to form a variety of paint compositions, which plurality comprises:

- (i) at least one[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution]] comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;
- (ii) at least one[[ premixed]] low resin prepaint composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution comprising a flattening agent]], at least one of the prepaint compositions comprising at least one of calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof; and
- (iii) at least one[[ premixed a high resin]] binder prepaint composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution]] comprising a resinous binder.

Claims 90-91. (Canceled)

Claim 92. (currently amended) The plurality of[[ premixed aqueous compositions]]prepaints of claim 89, wherein the number of[[ premixed compositions]] prepaints is 3 or more.

Claims 93-94. (Canceled)

Claim 95. (currently amended) The plurality of[[ premixed aqueous compositions]] prepaints of claim 89, wherein the[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate resinous binder adsorbed onto the[[ opacifying]] pigment.

Claims 96-97. (Canceled)

Claim 98. (currently amended) The plurality of[[ premixed aqueous compositions]]  
prepaints of claim 89, wherein at least one of the[[ premixed low resin]] prepaint  
compositions further comprises at least one particulate resinous binder absorbed onto the[[  
flattening agent]] at least one of the calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground  
limestone, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 99-100. (Canceled)

Claim 101. (currently amended) The plurality of[[ premixed aqueous compositions]]  
prepaints of claim 89, wherein at least one of the[[ premixed low resin]] prepaint  
compositions has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

Claims 102-103. (Canceled)

Claim 104. (currently amended) A plurality of[[ aqueous]] paint products produced by a process which comprises the steps of :

(a) providing a plurality of varied, but[[ compatible]] stable[[ premixed pigment compositions as an aqueous solution]]fluid prepaints, which plurality[[ of compositions]] comprises;

(i) at least one[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition[[ as an aqueous solution]] comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

(ii) at least one[[ premixed a]] low resin prepaint composition[[ as an aqueous solution]] comprising[[ a flattening agent]] at least one of calcined clay, silica, titanium dioxide, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof;

(iii) at least one[[ premixed high resin]] binder prepaint composition[[ as an aqueous solution]] comprising a resinous binder; and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions into containers to form a[[n aqueous]] paint product of the plurality of paint products.

Claims 105-106. (Canceled)

Claim 107. (Currently amended) A plurality of different but[[ compatible]] stable[[ aqueous premixed compositions]] fluid prepaints sufficient to formulate a plurality of paint products useful for forming pigmented coatings, which plurality of[[ premixed compositions]] prepaints [[comprising]]comprises:

(i) at least one[[ premixed]] prepaint composition[[ as an aqueous solution]] having a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

(ii) at least two[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions[[ as aqueous solutions]] each of which comprises at least one resin containing binder.

Claims 108-109. (Canceled)

Claim 110. (currently amended) A method of forming a plurality of paint products, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions of claim 107; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

**COUNT 2 (Method of Producing a Paint Line)**

Claims 111-112. (Canceled)

Claim 113. (currently amended) A method of forming a plurality of paint products comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of varied, but[[ compatible]] stable[[ premixed aqueous compositions]] fluid prepaints comprising:
  - (i) at least one[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;
  - (ii) at least one[[ premixed]] low resin prepaint composition, at least one of the prepaint compositions comprising[[ a flattening agent]] at least one of calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof;
  - (iii) at least one[[ premixed high resin]] binder prepaint composition comprising a resin containing binder; and
- (b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

Claims 114-115. (Canceled)

Claim 116. (currently amended) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of mixing the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 117-118. (Canceled)

Claim 119. (currently amended) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of mixing the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 120-121. (Canceled)

Claim 122. (currently amended) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 123-124. (Canceled)

Claim 125. (currently amended) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 126-127. (Canceled)

Claim 128. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint products.

Claims 129-130. (Canceled)

Claim 131. (previously presented) The method of claim 128, wherein the additive is a thickener.

Claims 132-133. (Canceled)

Claim 134. (Currently amended) The method of claim 113, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions.

Claims 135–136. (Canceled)

Claim 137. (Currently amended) The method of claim 113, wherein the pigment prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate resin absorbed onto the[[ opacifying]] pigment.

Claims 138-139. (Canceled)

Claim 140. (Currently amended) The method of claim 113, wherein[[ the low resin]] at least one of the prepaint compositions further comprises at least one particulate resin binder absorbed onto the[[ flattening agent]] at least one of the calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 141-142. (Canceled)

Claim 143. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

Claims 144- 145. (Canceled)

Claim 146. (Currently amended) The method of claim 113, wherein the number of [[premixed ]] prepaint compositions is 4 or more.

Claims 147-148. (Canceled)

Claim 149. (Currently amended) The method of forming a plurality of paint products of claim 113, wherein at least one of the[[ low resin]] prepaint compositions has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

Claims 150-151. (Canceled)

Claim 152. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

Claims 153-154. (Canceled)

Claim 155. (previously presented) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

Claim 156-157. (Canceled)

Claim 158. (Currently amended) The method of claim 113, wherein the method is controlled by[[ a computer]] programmed dispensing.

Claims 159-160. (Canceled)

Claim 161. (Currently amended) A method of forming a range of paint products, the range comprising variations in the plurality of the paint products:

(a) providing a plurality of varied, but[[ compatible]] stable[[ premixed aqueous compositions]] fluid prepaints sufficient to formulate the[[ at]] plurality of varied paint products, which plurality of fluid prepaints comprises:

(i) at least one[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

(ii) at least one[[ premixed]] low resin prepaint composition, at least one of the prepaint compositions comprising[[ a flattening agent]] at least one of calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof;

(iii) at least one[[ premixed high resin]] binder prepaint composition comprising a resin containing binder; and

(iv) at least one additional, different[[ premixed]] pigment, low resin, or high resin prepaint composition selected from the group consisting of (i), (ii), and (iii) and mixtures thereof; and

(b) dispensing a predetermined amount of each of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

Claims 162-163. (Canceled)

Claim 164. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of mixing the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 165-166. (Canceled)

Claim 167. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of mixing the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 168-169. (Canceled)

Claim 170. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 171-172. (Canceled)

Claim 173. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

Claims 174-175. (Canceled)

Claim 176. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the paint products.

Claims 177-178. (Canceled)

Claim 179. (previously presented) The method of claim 176, wherein the additive is a thickener.

Claims 180-181. (Canceled)

Claim 182. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions.

Claims 183-184. (Canceled)

Claim 185. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the pigment prepaint composition further comprises at least one particulate resin absorbed onto the[[ opacifying]] pigment.

Claims 186-187. (Canceled)

Claim 188. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, wherein at least one of the[[  
low resin]] prepaint compositions further comprises at least one particulate resin binder  
absorbed onto the[[ flattening agent]] at least one of the calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous  
earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof.

Claims 189-190. (Canceled)

Claims 191. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is  
carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

Claims 192-193. (Canceled)

Claim 194. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the number of  
[[premixed]] prepaint compositions is 4 or more.

Claims 195-196. (Canceled)

Claim 197. (Currently amended) The method of forming a plurality of paint products of  
claim 161, wherein at least one of the[[ low resin]] prepaint compositions has a PVC of about  
35% to about 100%.

Claims 198-199. (Canceled)

Claim 200. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

Claims 201-202. (Canceled)

Claim 203. (previously presented) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

Claims 204-205. (Canceled)

Claim 206. (Currently amended) The method of claim 161, wherein the method is controlled by[[ a computer]] programmed dispensing.

**COUNT 3 (A Pigmented Prepaint Composition)**

Claim 207. (Canceled)

Claim 208. (currently amended) A[[ premixed aqueous]] fluid pigment prepaint composition useful for formulating a[[ one pack,]] pigmented[[ aqueous]] paint[[ composition]] having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70% and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, which[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition contains other paint ingredients, which [[premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one[[ opacifying]] pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener, and
- (iv) water;

wherein the dispersant(s) and the thickener(s) are[[ mutually compatible]] stable when combined with the pigment(s) and with the other paint[[ composition]] ingredients.

Claim 209. (Canceled)

Claim 210. (currently amended) The[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 208, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50% and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

Claim 211. (Canceled)

Claim 212. (currently amended) The[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 208, wherein the[[ opacifying]] pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

Claim 213. (Canceled)

Claim 214. (currently amended) The[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 208, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

Claim 215. (Canceled)

Claim 216. (currently amended) The[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 208, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

Claim 217. (Canceled)

Claim 218. (currently amended) The[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 208, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a[[ coalescent]] viscosity controlling agent, with the additive being present in an amount of[[ less than about]] 10% or less by weight, based on the total weight of the[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition.

Claim 219. (Canceled)

Claim 220. (currently amended) A[[ set of]] plurality of prepaint compositions comprising two different, but[[ mutually compatible]] stable [[premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint compositions useful for formulating a[[n aqueous]] paint [[composition]], which[[ set]] comprises:

(a) the[[ premixed aqueous]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 208; and

(b) a[[ premixed polymeric]] resinous binder prepaint composition having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which binder prepaint composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the ingredients of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions are[[ mutually compatible]] stable when combined with each other and with the ingredients of the other[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions in the[[ set]] plurality.

Claim 221. (Canceled)

Claim 222. (currently amended) The[[ set of premixed aqueous]] plurality of fluid prepaint compositions of claim 220, wherein the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

Claim 223. (Canceled)

Claim 224. (currently amended) The[[ set of premixed aqueous]] plurality of fluid prepaint compositions of claim 220, wherein the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of less than about 10% by weight, based on the total weight of the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition.

Claim 225. (Canceled)

Claim 226. (currently amended) A[[ set of]] plurality of prepaing compositions comprising three different, but[[ mutually compatible]]stable, [[premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint compositions, useful for formulating a paint product, which[[ set]] plurality comprises:

- (a) the[[ set]] plurality of[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions of claim 220; and
- (b) a[[ premixed aqueous pigment extender]] low resin prepaint composition which consists essentially of:
  - (i) at least calcined clay, ground limestone, and diatomaceous earth,
  - (ii) at least one thickener,
  - (iii) water, and
  - (iv) optionally a resin containing binder;

wherein the[[ premixed binder]] low resin prepaint composition has[[ a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and]] a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

Claim 227. (Canceled)

Claim 228. (currently amended) The[[ set of premixed aqueous]] plurality of fluid prepaint compositions of claim 226, wherein the[[ premixed aqueous extender]] low resin prepaint composition has[[ a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and]] a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

Claim 229. (Canceled)

Claim 230. (currently amended) The[[ set of premixed aqueous]] plurality of fluid prepaint compositions of claim 220, wherein the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition.

Claim 231. (Canceled)

Claim 232. (currently amended) A[[ premixed aqueous]] fluid pigment prepaint composition having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU, useful for formulating a[[ one pack,]] pigmented[[ aqueous]] paint product containing other paint ingredients, which[[ premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint composition consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one[[ opacifying]] pigment,
- (ii) at least one dispersant,
- (iii) at least one thickener,
- (iv) at least one film-forming or non-film-forming resin, and
- (v) water; wherein the dispersant(s), the thickener(s), and the[[ polymer]] resin(s) are [[compatible]] stable when combined with the pigment(s) and with the other[[ premixed aqueous]] prepaint composition ingredients and wherein the[[ premixed aqueous]] prepaint composition is stable[[ to sedimentation]] and free from settling.

Claim 233. (Canceled)

Claim 234. (currently amended) The[[ premixed]] prepaint composition of claim 232, wherein the volume solids content is about 35% to about 50%, the PVC is about 50 to about 100%, and the Stormer viscosity is about 60 to about 150 KU.

Claim 235. (Canceled)

Claim 236. (currently amended) The[[ premixed resin]] prepaint composition of claim 232, wherein the resin is adsorbed onto the[[ opacifying]] pigment.

Claim 237. (Canceled)

Claim 238. (currently amended) The~~[[ premixed]]~~ prepaint composition of claim 232, wherein the~~[[ opacifying]]~~ pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

Claim 239. (Canceled)

Claim 240. (currently amended) The~~[[ premixed]]~~ prepaint composition of claim 232, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

Claim 241. (Canceled)

Claim 242. (currently amended) The~~[[ premixed]]~~ prepaint composition of claim 232, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

Claim 243. (Canceled)

Claim 244. (currently amended) The~~[[ premixed]]~~ prepaint composition of claim 232, wherein the resin comprises an acrylic resin.

Claim 245. (Canceled)

Claim 246. (currently amended) The[[ premixed]] prepaint composition of claim 232, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a[[ coalescent]] viscosity controlling agent, with the additive being present in an amount of[[ less than about]] 10% or less by weight, based on the total weight of the[[ premixed]] prepaint composition.

Claim 247. (Canceled)

Claim 248. (currently amended) A[[ set of]] plurality of prepaint compositions comprising two different, but[[ mutually compatible]] stable [[premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint compositions useful for formulating a paint[[ composition]] product, which[[ set]] plurality comprises:

(a) the[[ premixed]] pigment prepaint composition of claim 232; and  
(b) a[[ premixed polymeric]] binder prepaint composition having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, which[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C. and water;

wherein the ingredients of the[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions are[[ mutually compatible]] stable when combined with each other and with the ingredients of the other[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions in the[[ set]] plurality.

Claim 249. (Canceled)

Claim 250. (currently amended) The[[ set]] plurality of[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions of claim 248, wherein the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition has a volume solids content of about 30 to about 65% and a Brookfield viscosity of about 100 to about 50,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds, and consists essentially of a water-borne resin containing binder having a Tg of about -10 to about 60 degrees C.

Claim 251. (Canceled)

Claim 252. (currently amended) The[[ set]] plurality of[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions of claim 248, wherein the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a[[ coalescent]] viscosity controlling agent, the additive being present in an amount of[[ less than about]] 10% or less by weight, based on the total weight of the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition.

Claim 253. (Canceled)

Claim 254. (currently amended) A[[ set of]] plurality of prepaint compositions comprising three different, but[[ mutually compatible]] stable,[[ premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint compositions, useful for formulating a paint product, which[[ set]] plurality comprises:

- (a) the[[ set]] plurality of[[ premixed]] prepaint compositions of claim 248; and
- (b) a[[ premixed aqueous pigment extender]] fluid low resin prepaint composition which consists essentially of:
  - (i) at least calcined clay, ground limestone, and diatomaceous earth,
  - (ii) at least one thickener,
  - (iii) water, and
  - (iv) optionally a resin containing binder;

wherein the[[ premixed binder]] low resin prepaint composition has[[ a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and]] a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU.

Claim 255. (Canceled)

Claim 256. (currently amended) The[[ set]] plurality of[[ premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint compositions of claim 254, wherein the[[ premixed extender]] low resin prepaint composition has a volume solids content of about 35% to about 65%, a PVC of about 40% to about 100% and a Stormer viscosity of about 60 to about 150 KU.

Claim 257. (Canceled)

Claim 258. (currently amended) The[[ set]] plurality of[[ premixed aqueous]] fluid prepaint compositions of claim 248, wherein the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the[[ premixed]] binder prepaint composition.

**COUNT 4 (A Pigment Extender Prepaint Composition)**

Claim 259. (Canceled)

Claim 260. (currently amended) A[[ premixed aqueous pigment extender]] fluid low resin prepaint composition, useful for producing a pigmented[[ aqueous]] paint product containing other paint[[ ingredients]] contents, which[[ premixed]] low resin prepaint composition consists essentially of:

- (i) at least one of calcined clay, ground limestone, and diatomaceous earth, the low resin prepaint composition having[[ a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and]] a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU;
- (ii) at least one thickener,
- (iii) water, and
- (iv) an optional[[ polymeric]] resin containing binder; wherein the[[ premixed]] low resin prepaint composition[[ ingredients]] contents are[[ compatible]] stable when combined with each other and with the[[ ingredients]] contents of the paint product.

**COUNT 1 - (Product -Prepaints and Paint Composition)**

Claim 261. (currently amended) A plurality of premixed aqueous compositions for forming an aqueous paint composition, the plurality of compositions comprising:

a premixed pigment composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution having]] comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

a premixed low resin composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent]] at least one of the premixed compositions comprising at least one of calcined clay, silica, ground limestone, diatomaceous earth, and mixtures thereof; and

a premixed[[ a]] binder composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution having]] comprising a resin;

wherein mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition produces the aqueous paint composition from the premixed compositions.

Claim 262. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 3 or more.

Claim 263. (currently amended) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the premixed pigment composition further comprises at least one resin adsorbed onto the[[ opacifying]] pigment.

Claim 264. (currently amended) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein at least one of the premixed[[ low resin]] compositions further comprises at least one particulate resin absorbed onto the[[ flattening agent]] at least one of the calcined clay, silica, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 265. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed aqueous compositions of claim 261, wherein the premixed low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

Claim 266. (currently amended) A[[n aqueous ]]plurality of paint products made by a method comprising:

providing a plurality of varied, but stable premixed aqueous compositions, which plurality comprises:

[[premixing ]]a[[n]] premixed pigment composition[[ as an aqueous solution having ]] comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

[[premixing ]]a premixed low resin composition[[ as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent]]comprising at least one of calcined clay, silica, ground limestone, diatomaceous earth, and mixtures thereof;

[[premixing ]]a premixed binder composition[[ as an aqueous solution having]] comprising a resin; and

mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition to produce[[ an aqueous]] the plurality of paint products[[ composition]] from the premixed compositions.

Claim 267. (currently amended) A[[n]] plurality of varied, but stable, premixed aqueous[[ paint]] compositions for formulating a plurality of paint products, the plurality of premixed aqueous paint compositions comprising:

a premixed pigment composition comprising a [[as an aqueous solution having an opacifying ]]pigment;

at least two premixed[[ low resin]] compositions [[as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent]]each of which comprises a resin[;

a premixed binder composition as an aqueous solution having a resin; and

a portion of the pigment composition mixed with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition to produce the aqueous paint composition from the premixed compositions]].

Claim 268. (Currently amended) A method of forming a plurality of paint products, which method comprises the steps of:

- (a) providing a plurality of the premixed compositions of claim 267; and
- (b) dispensing a[[ predetermined amount]] portion of the premixed pigment composition and a portion of at least one of each of the at least two premixed compositions each having the resin into containers to form the plurality of paint products.

**COUNT 2 (Method of Producing a Paint Line)**

Claim 269. (currently amended) A method of producing a plurality of[[ aqueous]] paint products, the method comprising:

premixing a[[n opacifying]] pigment composition[[ as an aqueous solution having]] comprising a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

premixing a low resin composition,[[ as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent]] at least one of the premixed compositions comprising at least one of calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof;

premixing a binder composition[[ as an aqueous solution having]] comprising a resin; and

mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition and the binder composition in\_a container to produce an aqueous paint product of the plurality of paint products from the premixed compositions.

Claim 270. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

Claim 271. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of mixing the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

Claim 272. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before, while, or after they are dispensed into the containers.

Claim 273. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adjusting the viscosity of the premixed compositions before or while they are dispensed into the containers.

Claim 274. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adding at least one additive that enhances application or final performance of the aqueous paint product.

Claim 275. (previously presented) The method of claim 274, wherein the additive is a thickener.

Claim 276. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, further comprising the step of adding at least one colorant to the premixed compositions.

Claim 277. (currently amended) The method of claim 269, wherein the[[ opacifying]] pigment composition further comprises at least one resin adsorbed onto the[[ opacifying]] pigment.

Claim 278. (currently amended) The method of claim 269, wherein[[ the low resin]]at least one of the premixed compositions further comprises[[ at least one]]a resin adsorbed onto the[[ flattening agent]] at least one of the calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 279. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is carried out at a paint manufacturing facility.

Claim 280. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the number of premixed compositions is 4 or more.

Claim 281. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the low resin composition has a PVC of about 35% to about 100%.

Claim 282. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-sale.

Claim 283. (previously presented) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is carried out at the point-of-use.

Claim 284. (Currently amended) The method of claim 269, wherein the method is controlled[[ by a computer]] in accordance with programmed dispensing.

Claim 285. (currently amended) A method of producing a plurality of paint products and variations of[[ a]] the plurality of[[ aqueous]] paint products, the method comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of varied, but stable premixed aqueous compositions for producing the plurality of paint products and the variations of the plurality of paint products, which plurality of premixed aqueous compositions comprises:

(i) a premixed[[ing an opacifying]] pigment composition[[ as an aqueous solution having an opacifying]] comprising a pigment;

(ii) a premixed[[ing a]] low resin composition,[[ as an aqueous solution having a flattening agent]]at least one of the premixed compositions comprising at least one of calcined clay, silica, diatomaceous earth, ground limestone, and mixtures thereof;

(iii) a premixed[[ing a]] binder composition[[ as an aqueous solution having]] comprising a resin; and

(iv) [[premixing ]]an additional different premixed composition from the group consisting of the compositions of (i), (ii), and (iii), and mixtures thereof; and

(b) mixing a portion of the pigment composition with a portion of at least one of the low resin composition,[[ and]] the binder composition, and the additional different composition in a container[[s]] to produce[[ an aqueous paint product of]] the variations of the plurality of paint products[[ from the premixed compositions]].

Claims 286-300 (canceled).

**COUNT 3 (A Pigmented Prepaint Composition)**

Claim 301. (currently amended) A premixed aqueous pigment composition for forming a[[n aqueous]] paint product, the premixed composition comprising:

[[a premixed pigment composition provided as an aqueous solution having:]]

a[[n opacifying]] pigment;

[[a dispersant-thickener comprising:]]

a dispersant,

a thickener; and

water;

wherein the dispersant and the thickener are stable when mixed[[ing]] with[[ a portion of]] the pigment[[ composition]] and with other paint contents[[ ingredients provides the aqueous paint composition]].

Claim 302. (Cancelled)

Claim 303. (currently amended) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the[[ opacifying]] pigment comprises titanium dioxide.

Claim 304. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the dispersant comprises potassium tripolyphosphate.

Claim 305. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, wherein the thickener comprises a cellulosic.

Claim 306. (Currently amended) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 301, further consisting essentially of at least one additive comprising a[[ coalescent]] viscosity controlling agent, with the additive being present in an amount of[[ less than about]] 10% or less by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed aqueous composition.

Claim 307. (currently amended) A plurality of[[ different]] varied, but[[ mutually compatible]] stable premixed aqueous compositions useful for formulating a paint product, which plurality comprises:

- (a) the premixed[[ opacifying]] aqueous composition of claim 301; and
- (b) a premixed binder composition[[ having volume solids content of about 25% to about 70% or a Brookfield viscosity of less than about 100,000 centipoise at a shear rate of 1.25 reciprocal seconds]], which binder composition consists essentially of a water-borne resin[[ having a Tg of about -430 degrees C. to about 70 degrees C.]] and water;
  - wherein the[[ ingredients]] contents of the premixed compositions are[[ mutually compatible]] stable when mixed with each other and with the[[ ingredients]] contents of the other premixed compositions of the plurality.

Claim 308. (Canceled)

Claim 309. (currently amended) The[[ set]] plurality of premixed[[ fluid]] aqueous compositions of claim 307, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, the additive being present in an amount of[[ less than]] about[[ 10]] 2% by weight, based on the total weight of the premixed binder composition.

Claim 310. (currently amended) A plurality of[[ different]] varied, but[[ mutually compatible]] stable, premixed compositions, useful for formulating a paint product, which plurality comprises:

- (a) the plurality of premixed[[ fluid]] aqueous compositions of claim 307; and
- (b) a premixed aqueous[[ pigment extender]] low resin composition, at least one of the which consists essentially of:
  - (i) at least one[[ flattening agent]] of calcined clay, ground limestone, diatomaceous earth, and mixtures thereof,
  - (ii) at least one thickener,
  - (iii) water, and
  - (iv) optionally a resin[[;

wherein the premixed extender composition has a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU]].

Claim 311. (Canceled)

Claim 312. (previously presented) The plurality of premixed compositions of claim 307, wherein the premixed binder composition further consists essentially of at least one additive comprising a coalescent, with the additive being present in an amount of less than about 20% by weight, based on the total weight of the binder composition.

Claim 313. (currently amended) A premixed aqueous pigment[[ paint]] composition[[ having a volume solids content of about 30% to about 70%, a PVC of about 35% to about 100%, and a Stormer viscosity of about 50 to about 250 KU,]] useful for formulating a[[n aqueous]] pigmented paint product containing other paint[[ ingredients]] contents, the premixed pigment composition[[ provided as an aqueous solution]] comprising:

a pigment[[;

a dispersant-thickener comprising:]]

a dispersant, [[and]]]

a thickener;

a resin, and

water;

wherein the pigment composition is stable and free from settling and wherein mixing a portion of the pigment composition with the other paint ingredients provides the[[ aqueous]] paint product.

Claim 314. (Canceled)

Claim 315. (previously presented) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the resin is adsorbed onto the pigment.

Claims 316-318. (canceled).

Claim 319. (Currently amended) The premixed aqueous composition of claim 313, wherein the resin comprises an acrylic[[s]].

Claims 320-326. (canceled)

**COUNT 4 (A Pigment Extender Prepaint Composition)**

Claim 327. (currently amended) A[[n aqueous solution having a]] premixed aqueous low resin[[ pigment extender]] composition[[.]] useful for producing a paint product containing other[[ premixed compositions]]contents, the[[ aqueous solution]] premixed low resin composition comprising:

- (i) [[a flattening agent]]one or more of calcined clay, ground limestone, diatomaceous earth, and combinations thereof;
- (ii) [[a dispersant thickening dilutant composition having ]]a thickener,
- (iii) water, and
- (iv) optionally a resin; wherein the premixed[[ extender]] low resin composition[[ ingredients]]contents are[[ compatible]] stable when mixed with each other.